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BCStats

Data Services
(250) 387-0327
BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca
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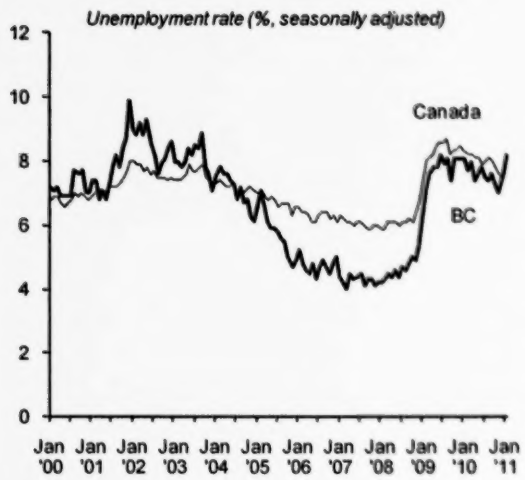
Labour Force Statistics ◆ January 2011

(All labour force statistics are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated)

Jobless rate in British Columbia rises to 8.2% in January

Starting the New Year on a somewhat sour note, the province's unemployment rate climbed 0.6 percentage points to 8.2% in January. This is the highest that BC's jobless rate has been since June 2009 and the first time since 2004 that BC's rate of unemployment has exceeded the national average.

For the first time since 2004,
BC's jobless rate is higher than the national average



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Sliding employment (-0.4%) and an expanding labour force (+0.3%) together conspired to put upward pressure on the province's unemployment rate. Part-time employment dropped sharply (-4.0%) in January, but this was partially offset by an increase in the number of full-time jobs (+0.7%).

A note to all readers

Starting with the Labour Force Survey (LFS) release for January 2011 (released February 4, 2011), Statistics Canada is basing the LFS estimates on the 2006 Census population counts and sub-provincial estimates on the 2006 Census boundaries. These revisions will have a minor impact on the LFS estimates—rates of unemployment, employment and labour force participation will remain essentially unchanged.

In addition, industry information will now be based on the North American Industry Classification System 2007 (NAICS 2007) and occupational information will be based on the National Occupational Classification – Statistics 2006 (NOC-S 2006).

Job losses were concentrated among male workers (-0.9%), while employment among women actually edged higher compared to the previous month (+0.2%).

Self-employment continued to slide in January (-2.2%), posting a fourth decline in the past five months. Since reaching a recent peak in August 2010, self-employment has fallen by roughly one-tenth (-10.2%).

Self-employment has declined significantly since the summer of 2010

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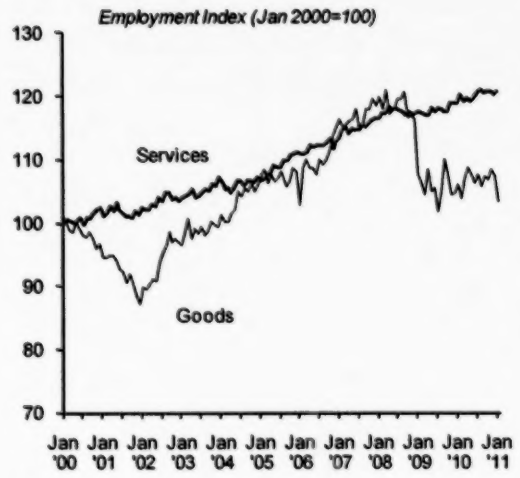
Employment in the goods sector fell considerably in January, while the services sector made a slight gain



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Employment in the goods-producing sector plummets

The number of people employed in the goods sector dropped (-3.8%) in January, due primarily to a decline (-7.4%) in manufacturing. Agriculture (-9.9%) and utilities (-7.2%) also registered losses in employment. Forestry, fishing & mining posted a slight increase compared to the previous month (+0.3%), while the number of jobs in construction was virtually flat.

Overall employment in the services sector rose slightly (+0.4%) as reductions in both professional, scientific & technical services (-6.6%) and transportation & warehousing (-4.9%) were offset by increases in finance, insurance & real estate (+7.5%) and accommodation & food services (+4.3%). Health & social assistance (+1.9%) and trade (+1.3%) both registered comparatively modest workforce expansions. Employment in education (-1.3%) and public administration (-1.2%) was down from the previous month.

It should be noted that month-to-month variability in industry level employment figures may be related to sampling anomalies and therefore should be treated with caution.

Off-reserve Aboriginal Population

While the jobless rate (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*), among BC's non-Aboriginal adult (aged 25 and over) population has fallen in the past year, the rate among off-reserve Aboriginal population of the same age group has increased. The jobless rate among non-Aboriginal adults fell from 6.9% in January 2010 to 6.5% in January 2011—among Aboriginal adults the rate increased from 11.1% to 17.5%.

Immigrant Population

Among the Canadian-born population aged 25 to 54, the unemployment rate (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*), has remained unchanged (at 6.6%) between January 2010 and January 2011. With respect to the very recent (less than 5 years) and recent (5 to 10 years) same-age landed immigrant populations, however, jobless rates have actually worsened (from 9.4% to 13.4% and from 8.1% to 10.3%, respectively). Established immigrants (10 years or more) have experienced an improvement in their jobless rate, from 9.4% (January 2010) to 7.3% (January 2011).

The Regions

At the regional level, unemployment rates (*3-month moving average, unadjusted*) ranged from a low of 6.9% in Vancouver Island/Coast to a high of 9.0% in both Northeast and Thompson/ Okanagan.

Compared to the same month in the previous year, jobless rates have fallen in most regions of the province with Northeast (9.0% versus 4.9% January 2010) and Thompson/Okanagan (9.0% versus 8.7% January 2010) being the only exceptions.

The Nation

Nationally, employment was up (+0.4%) for a second straight month. However, Canada's overall unemployment rate edged 0.2 percentage points higher to 7.8% due to an increased number of people looking for work.

Employment was up in nearly all provinces, most notably in Ontario (+0.5%) and Alberta (+1.1%). Significant gains were also registered in Newfoundland and Labrador (+2.2%) and Nova Scotia (+1.4%). BC (-0.4%) and New Brunswick (-0.3%) were the only provinces that posted employment losses in January.

Selected Statistics	Jan-11	Dec-10	Jan-10
BC Unemployment Rate (%)	8.2	7.6	8.1
Canadian Unemployment Rate (%)	7.8	7.6	8.3
BC Employment ('000)	2,252	2,261	2,236
BC Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	65.2	65.1	65.8
Jan % change in employment relative to:	-	-0.4	0.7
Jan % change in labour force relative to:	-	0.3	0.8